An
Inaugural Essay
Passed March 1828
On
Uterine Haemorrhage;

For
The Degree of Doctor of Medicine
In
The University of Pennsylvania.

By

P. Fitzsimons Eve,
Of
Georgia.
Philadelphia,
Sept. 1827.

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Having selected the subject of Uterine Haemorrhage for an inaugural Dissertation, my intention is to investigate its various causes, & the different conditions under which it appears, & to examine the modes of treatment sanctioned by modern observation: should no new idea or suggestion be offered in considering the subject, the indulgence due to youth & inexperience is justly claimed.

The great interest with which Anatomy has been cultivated in every age, by the most eminent that have adorned the medical science & healing art, clearly points it out the object that deserves the first attention of him, who aspires to honourable distinction & respectability in his profession. It is only by a minute investigation of the separate organs & distinct systems of which our bodies are composed, that a correct & accurate knowledge is to be obtained of the structure of each individual part, of the laws which govern them, of the functions which they perform, & of the influence which they exercise over the animal economy. And it is this information that tends to enlarge & exalt our views of human nature, that cherishes the deep spirit

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of research & lays the foundation of whatever of physiological & pathological skill, is to guide & direct us in practice.

A correct knowledge of the Anatomical structure & peculiarities of the female, is as much a prerequisite to any useful or available study of the laws & phenomena of paturition, whether healthy or morbid, as it is even to the Surgeon. Both the Surgeon & Accoucheur, proceed in the dark, if unprovided with the lights of Anatomy. Artificial delivery becomes often necessary in the affections I am about to treat of, & this can never be well performed without a knowledge of the structures concerned in it; but while I fully recognize its importance, I shall, for want of space, omit any details in this essay.

The created world has with propriety, been divided into fluids & solids, so is it with man, who has been denominated a Microcosm; & as water serves in its circulation through the great channels of the terrestial system to vivify & nourish all nature, so does the blood accomplish the same ends in our own. Hence, of the materials which compose the human body, the <u>blood</u> appears to

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to be by far the most important to our well being & existence. It is this fluid which sets the animal machine in motion, which nourishes the body, sustains life, generates heat, & furnishes the various secretions. From this it may reasonably be inferred, that the due performance of the functions of each organ, is directly dependant upon the requisite quantity of blood which it receives, so that, if the circulating mass be diminished, the effects of that diminution, either in quantity or quality, will be felt over the whole body, & perhaps in no one system more than in the nervous. And since the integrity of the nervous system is absolutely necessary for the continuation of life, or at least indispensable for the preservation of "the totality of those functions which resist death," we may infer the great danger of profuse <u>bleedings</u>. And if we consider how soon the vital energies of these organs, whose influence is transmitted to the most distant part, is impaired by the loss of blood, & view the extensive surfaces exposed to their action, we shall not be surprised that the fre-

frequent occurrence of Haemorrhages & their rapid & too often fatal termination, has rendered the subject one of the deepest interest & importance to every member of the profession.

On account of the comparatively recent discovery of the circulation, little can be expected to have been advanced towards a correct & certain mode of managing this class of diseases by the ancients; & we may add, that, the moderns have until lately done little else than dispute about the propriety of attempting their cure by art. Without entering into their controversies, or even declaring that nature often needs the hand of direction, I rely upon the bare assertion for the truth, that however critical & salutary some Haemorrhages may be, yet, that from the Uterus of the female, must always be considered dangerous, & be deemed the most unfortunate when complicated with pregnancy.

Having premised these observations, I proceed to that arrangement of the subject which appears the most perspicuous & natural, & the following simple division of Uterine Haemorrhages, will therefore be adopted, viz——

1st. Those Haemorrhages which occur in the unimpregna-

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2d. those which happen during the period of labor [illegible]

And 3d. those which are connected with the delivery of the placenta.

Lastly, those Hæmorrhages which occur in the puerperal state of the Uterus.

As a correct knowledge of the functions of any organ, is necessary based upon the acquaintance we possess of its minute structure & of the laws to which it is subject, a few moments will not be unprofitably devoted to an examination of that one which makes woman what she is: but, not considering it as within our province to describe the anatomy of the Uterus, I shall at present be contented with a brief investigation of its physiology & functions.

Considering this organ as a hollow muscle, well supplied with blood vessels, absorbents, & nerves; destined to undergo functional changes far beyond those that occur in any other part of our system. [illegible]

[illegible] perfect [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] principal

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

and a slight offence, he [illegible] properly be com

pared [illegible] the other; for, upon an examination it will be

found, that each possesses nearly the same structure,

that they are regulated by the same principles, & that they

are [illegible] under the control of the mind, though exposed to

the ground also of the contractor. From this [illegible]

to subject [illegible] appears strange that the function of secre

tion should ever have been denied to the arteries: nevertheless

the contrary is still maintained by men of talent.

[illegible] of the stomach, composed of a peritoneal, a cellular,

a muscular, & a mucous coat, & furnished with arteries

veins absorbents, & nerves, can secrete a fluid endow

ed with the property of dissolving [illegible]; why may

[illegible]

not the Uterus possessed of the same organization, sub-ance by similar process? the uterus, a [illegible] tering them into common ulcer! But should it be said that their mucous coats are essentially different, then why are they not at all the same diseases? [illegible] a part [illegible] mucous coats, the ones liable to [illegible] [illegible] a particular organization, whereby they become predisposed to it? Is the more muscular part ever known to be the seat of this disease? Are not the [illegible] of the stomach, [illegible] of the Uterus, peculiarly obnoxious to it? And if cancer does not attack the muscular or mucous coat, must it not be their [illegible] or follicular apparatus, thus establishing an identity in their structure? In short, when do they differ except in the one being smaller but having its parietes much thicker than the other, which is larger, but much thinner? So that under certain circumstances of the stomach being highly contracted you have a mass almost as thick as the Uterus, if the Uterus be dilated you have a muscu-

lar

lar way almost as [illegible] as the stomach!

If the observations made [illegible] supposition, [illegible] deserve the name of [illegible] or [illegible], [illegible] there can be [illegible] any objections to be made against that construction as a genuine secretion, performed by the spirit of the nerves. For the arterial conveying the blood to their extremities, the capillaries having the power of conveying or breaking down the red globules and thus of [illegible] meses, due to lymphatics and the other secretions, are agreeable to the formation of new particles. The [illegible] [illegible] changed from fibrin, [illegible], or [illegible] [illegible] se, can no more be expected than the reciprocal action existing between the termination of an artery [illegible] nerve, or the commencement of an absorbent & a vein. Perhaps in the one case, it may be stated from the theory adopted, that as the coagulation of blood is believed to be dependant on the loss of the [illegible] degree of [illegible] which it possesses, & the death producing a rupture of the membranoid pellicles surrounding &

giving form to the placenta, these inner surfaces interlocking with each other express the serum & thus confine the coagulum. The capillaries of the womb may destroy these pellicles in the same manner that lightning or blows on the stomach effect it, or they enter the absorbents: And for a reason why it is changed, we may say that it is agreeable to that wisdom which we see every where displayed in the works of nature, for to what miseries would the female be subjected if the menses coagulated.

Admitting the above statements to be correct, & at variance with no known law of the animal economy, still, we have to account for the discharge of this coloured fluid occurring every lunar month, & why it should be necessary to prepare the female for conception. Speculations have multiplied one after another, hypotheses have been erected on untenable foundations, & theories have arisen to flourish & sink into the dust with their projectors. Without occupying space or time for the consideration of

these

[illegible] or even the one lately proposed by Sir Everard Home, wherein he believes that every twenty-eight days a woman has a venereal appetite, & that this proves a stimulus to the ovaria & causes a secretion of an unfecundated ovum, & its liberation by the corpus luteum, which upon entering the Uterus excites the discharge of the menses; I shall here notice only the plausible theory more recently originated by Professor Samuel Jackson, & it is done not because the author possesses great talent & erudition, but on account of its connection with Uterine Haemorrhage. The Professor sets out with the established fact, that the human female may become impregnated at any season of the year, & when she does, there is a great afflux of blood to the Uterus from two causes, from the irritation developed in the organ by the stimulus, & from the necessity to supply the demands of its increased size. Now, if impregnation can take place at any period, the system must always contain the blood which will be demanded by the Uterus in a state of irritation & enlargement;

ment; but impregnation not occurring then, the system is under the necessity of throwing off this useless blood, which it does by a Haemorrhage from the womb every lunar month.

But however great satisfaction I might describe to most of this explanation of the cause of menstruation, yet, I cannot for a moment admit of the discharge being pure blood. This fluid in the natural state never coagulates, a circumstance, which, independent of the difference of colour, odour, & consistency, is sufficient evidence of its being a secretion, & not an extravasated or effused blood. With the single exception, for reasons already assigned, & from the facts that females are more disposed to plethora than men, as must be the case from their sedentary habits, & that the discharge depends on a topical congestion, as is proved by venesection preventing or checking it, I consider the above illustration the most rational that has been offered. & in the present state of medical science, think it may be deemed the true cause of menstruation.

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Having, as I trust, fully considered the natural function of the Uterus in relation to the catamenial discharge, I attempt to show it to be a genuine secretion, & next proceed to shew that derangement of it constituting Haemorrhage. The causes which may produce this change in the unimpregnated state of the Uterus, may be reduced to those which effect irritation in the general system of the female, such as fevers, increased circulation from mechanical organic, &c; & those which induce general debility or laxity in the blood-vessels, such as a typhoid condition of the system, inveterate artectes of diet & drink, &c.

From the peculiar nature of the healthy office of this organ, there appears in it a reason why it should be especially liable to Haemorrhage; for all that seems necessary to occasion it, is a change in its capillary circulation, either an increased action, exceeding the low degree of secretion it performs, or a topical relaxation, preventing it. By secretion is here meant that function, by which a fluid or solid is elaborated from the circulating mass, differing from it

[illegible] characterized. [illegible] without [illegible] would be [illegible] the menstruation [illegible] the [illegible] appearances. — [illegible] be, or as the case [illegible] the fluid secreted by the uterus. And because it elaborates a fluid in its natural & health[y] condition differing but little from blood itself, a slighter cause will be required to change the menstrual discharge of the womb to a hemorrhagic character, than in any other organ. The causes too, which are supposed capable of producing them perhaps act more advantageously during the period of menstruation, merely changing the secretory action to an extravasation or effusion of blood; & hence the frequency of medical writers confounding this disease with Menorrhagia proper. but from which it is always to be distinguished by the coagula & bloodiness of the discharges.

The treatment is naturally divided into those remedies that are applicable during the paroxysm or flow of blood, & those that are to be administered during the intermission. The indication to be fulfilled in the first

place

[illegible] complicated at once, [illegible] the quantity discharged, although it does not prove immediate death, yet may so prostrate the [illegible] as to call into action those diseases to which the system is predisposed. We should therefore, when called to a patient [illegible] under severe Hæmorrhage, turn our attention particularly to this point, to arrest the discharge. And to answer the end in view, a horizontal posture on a mattress, complete rest, are directly to be enjoined as the very first step. Should it be ascertained to arise from general [illegible], the patient [illegible], [illegible] to reduce the vascular excitement. Cold air is to be freely admitted to the room, [illegible] applied to the patient's neck, or cold water injected into the vagina, to prevent the contraction of the bleeding vessels, and to coagulate fibrous substance between them. At the same time, opium or its preparations, either alone, or in combination with the acetate of lead, is to be administered internally, or employed in the form of an enema.

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If the discharge is kept up by irritating contents in the rectum, the bowels are to be opened by gentle laxatives. From the general that depletion exercises over the heart & great arteries, it may be of much advantage in cases of excitement, after depletion has been premised. And it may be here is noticed that the use of the means by which the actual, if the pulse can be first accurately, & in some instances, is to be preferred to depletion or nauseating medicines.

Should, however, the Haemorrhage be owing to a typhoid condition or other debilitating causes, bleeding will be improper, & the admission of cold air & application of iced-water must be more sparingly employed. Wine, cordials, & nourishing articles are to be given with a more liberal hand, though they must not be carried so far as suddenly to rouse or excite the system. As the flow of blood may depend on a topical relaxation of the Uterine vessels, digitalis would aggravate it. Stimulating astringents injected into the vagina, where from false notions of delicacy

[illegible] or from improper [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] be attended with an arrest of the [illegible], or [illegible], with great advantage. And [illegible] [illegible] so well adapted that it should not be neglected as an auxiliary in these cases. But, as it is impossible to set down specific rules by which we are to be governed, or embrace in any one description all the variations which may occur, the indications which ought to be fulfilled, it may be necessary to state that our practice is to be regulated on general principles. We shall seldom go wrong if after a careful investigation into the state of the system we prescribe according to symptoms actually present. Should the method mentioned not succeed a [illegible] of bleeding may be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] & restore the loss of blood; a safer mode will be to combine it with opium in nauseating doses, to quiet the action of the skin. From a knowledge that the ergot only exercises an influence over the contractile fibres of this organ, its administration in the unimpregnated state will be followed by no advantage, since the uterus

already commenced. Could it not therefore be placed on rest, cold and depressed, when the hemorrhage arises from an increased circulation; & on the contrary, as [illegible], & that in [illegible] when it depends on debility — and acting on the one case not to repress the system by sedatives, nor to excite it in the other by stimulants, but to pursue that happy medium which tends to equalize it.

The first indication being accomplished, the cause of the discharge, the attention must now be directed to the second, which is to raise such a healthy change in the Uterine system, that it may at the next menstrual period perform its natural function free of coagula. It has already been remarked, that the most frequent cause of Uterine Hæmorrhage is the complication with, or, where it is complicated with the catamenia. Consequently, without a revolution of the Uterine system during the interval, the same action will in all probability occur at the next menstrual period, although at the preceding one it was checked

before the loss of much blood.

To lady, broken this lady, urge the patient, on arising from her bed to resume her domestic avocations, should be seriously impressed with the necessity of all the exciting causes being strictly avoided. The articles of nourishment should be mild & regulated & every thing highly seasoned & stimulating prohibited. Alcoholic liquors are injurious, & the drinks should be cold & acidulated. As irritation in the rectum is easily transmitted to the uterus, constipation is to be guarded against as well as diarrhoea & dysentery. To prevent plethora more effectually, the ingesta must be diminished, sleep abridged, & exercise in open air increased. But above all, heat in every shape is to be most carefully shunned. These restrictions are to be particularly enforced immediately antecedent to the period of menstruation, & should the system be in the least excited, or one symptom exist to demand it, blood must be drawn; & during the flow of the menses to prevent an Haemorrhagic action in the vessels,

so

so much of the treatment previously recommended as may be deemed requisite, ought to be directed.

But where the Haemorrhage has either proceeded from, or brought on debility, a more invigorating plan will be required. The object here is gradually to strengthen the system in order that it may be able to perform with energy, its wonted functions. To accomplish this end, a rich & nourishing diet will be necessary; & the peruvian bark, iron, & other tonics, together with the judicious use of the cold bath, will generally so restore the tone of the blood-vessels, as to prevent any unnatural discharge from them at the end of the month. And at that critical time the system is to be carefully watched, & the symptoms which arise are to be managed accordingly.

Second, those Haemorrhagies which happen during the period of Utero-gestation.

We now enter upon the consideration of that division of the subject, the importance of which must attract the attention of the most superficial observer.

Far,

For, where shall that man be found so hardened in sense so destitute of sympathy, & so dead to the finer feelings of our nature, as to look on unmoved at those accidents which occasioning an impetuous discharge of blood, destroy at the same time the life of the mother & her unborn infant. If there be a period at which woman becomes more lovely & interesting, it surely is that, when she is silently undergoing those changes which are to fit her for the passages & duties of the maternal relation. And there cannot be a case to which a practitioner is called, where he has to assume greater responsibilities; & no disease which he has to encounter, where prompt & decided measures, & a just discrimination between cold delay & rash precipitation are more requisite, than in Uterine Haemorrhage complicated with pregnancy.

Soon after the passage of a fecundated ovum through the fallopian tube into the Uterus, it becomes attached by innumerable blood-vessels to that organ, which increase in number & size as gestation advances. This connection being an interlocking of the villi & vessels on the outer surface of the chorion with those on the in-

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ner face of the decidua, or in other words, each affording a [illegible], into which the blood vessels shoot reciprocally; it must be evident that if a separation takes place between these memoranes, more or less blood will inevitably be extravasated. And from the rapid growth & peculiar delicacy of the connecting medium, it is easy to conceive how many & diversified are the causes producing this effect.

A partial or total separation of the placenta or membranes from the uterus, may happen at any time with in the term of utero gestation — if the ovum be expelled during the first six months, it is said to be an abortion, if after the sixth month it is called a premature delivery. And there would seem to be a propriety in the division of the subject into these Haemorrhages connected with abortion, & those with premature delivery, but as their causes & treatment are nearly the same, the principles of which can only be dwelt upon at present, I have introduced them under one head, leaving the peculiarities to be pointed out

out in their [illegible] place.

The premature separation of the placenta or secundines from the uterus, is the principal cause of all these hæmorrhages, [illegible] may attack [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible]; [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] by an imperfect union of the [illegible] [illegible] surface. It is evident how [illegible], great exertions, violent [illegible] plethora may produce a [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] in the circulation, which, no [illegible] [illegible], beyond the capability of the vessels of the uterus [illegible] [illegible]. And it must also be known, that, [illegible] [illegible] the contraction of the womb as the [illegible] of the [illegible], the [illegible] of patience, or the death of the child, will all [illegible] occasion a detachment of the [illegible] with its coverings, & consequently a discharge of blood. But the most dangerous cause of uterine hæmorrhage is the implantation of the placenta over the os uteri. All others except this one are accidental, but from the [illegible] [illegible] of more or less effusion of blood [illegible], these cases in the last months of pregnancy,

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it has been noticed that [illegible] that the
[illegible] are not to appear when
the situations of the parts are correctly considered.
It will then be discovered that [illegible] as
a placenta [illegible], and body [illegible] free,
or rather [illegible] or much better is the case at
the seventh month. The death of the [illegible] will be
called into action, & separating, must [illegible] & [illegible]
gradually rupture the vessels & separate the placenta.

The [illegible] happening from [illegible] cause [illegible],
[illegible] the necessary consequence for the patient to
[illegible] [illegible] for, [illegible] have hitherto, at
times to save the sufferer by syncope which provides
regulation. & by contraction to expel the child &
thus close the [illegible] of the [illegible].
But [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible]
direction & regard to the [illegible] & art more than [illegible]
other disease. For although the morbid [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] by coagula, yet the patients
[illegible] sooner recovered from than the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] !

[illegible] fact, that [illegible] the stomach properly receiving and carrying on the food [illegible] depends on the [illegible] of the [illegible] stomach, respiration becomes laborious, the heart pulsates feebly, the stomach cannot digest the food it receives, hence heartburn, eructations, which take place [illegible] on such occasions. Should the floating skin continue, the symptoms are aggravated, the pulse becomes imperceptible at the wrist, the face and lips are pale, a [illegible] sense of [illegible], breaks out over the whole body, [illegible] are to be performed with the larger [illegible]. It has been [illegible] improper [illegible] such [illegible], in the language of Mr. Burns, "we may stop the [illegible], but recovery will not take place [illegible] we may act on the dead, but the [illegible] will not [illegible]."

The first object in [illegible] when a [illegible] discharge of blood [illegible] large quantity is delivered, which has been the expulsion of the ovum or attempt to produce [illegible]tion of gestation. To meet this indication, the recumbent posture & absolute rest are to be immediately directed, for without these all other remedies will be in vain. As it will be necessary to ascertain the probability of saving the ovum in the full period, inquiry into the cause of the Haemorrhage, the degree of pain & its nature, & the rapidity of the flow & quantity lost should be made; and we are to be governed chiefly by an examination. When the discharge will be found in proportion to the extent of the separation, to the situation of the placenta, & to the state of the uterus. Let the result of the examination be what it may, unless the patient be much prostrated, & the os uteri relaxed, with a continued flow of blood we are to proceed upon the expectation of restoring the uterus to healthy action. And if but little blood has been lost, if the os uteri be found hard & rigid, & the

[illegible] quite so. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

employment, [illegible] seed, [illegible]
[illegible] of the [illegible] N [illegible]
[illegible] The acid [illegible] the principle [illegible] pressure
[illegible] scapula in the space of the [illegible]-spine. [illegible]
only positive objection that can be raised against it, which is
that it may cause the Hæmorrhage, but the Hæmorrhage is seldom so profuse
and relapses are still from the effusion of blood [illegible] it,
moreover, its state can be ascertained by bandaging
pressure on the abdomen. And even if the expulsion
of the child be inevitable, still it preserves the strength
of the patient, & thereby promotes the tonic contraction
of the uterus.

It will be perceived from the foregoing remarks, a
[illegible] a paroxysm of fluxus coincidens with pregnancy our
greatest reliance is to be placed on venæsection, or the lori
zontal position, & on the application of cold & the tamponade.

Having by these measures conducted the Hæmor
rhage to a close, we are ever after to consider the patient
peculiarly liable to a return, & never totally free from
danger until delivered, since it is now ascertained

that

[illegible] pain [illegible]
place [illegible] [illegible] necessary. And [illegible] [illegible],
[illegible] much caution cannot be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],
[illegible] happen in the action of the pulse. In [illegible], the practi-
tioner, & is not the custom of the vulgar, to recruit the system
with all possible dispatch, by the liberal use of wine, cor-
dials, & nourishing articles; but the prudent physician dis-
covers the error as easily as he sees that reviving the sys-
tem from syncope by hot brandy, which has the indirect
tendency to produce what it was given to prevent. In a
[illegible] inflammation in the stomach [illegible] the mucous
coat is [illegible], he dreads a strict adherence to the
antiphlogistic regimen, & to avoid all the consequences,
the symptoms of the circulation, pain, nausea, heat, &c,
& while circulation is allayed & excitement subdued the
system is supported.

If however, all the attempts to [illegible] the [illegible] of pain
prove fruitless, or if we impossible to resist the impulse of
the fever, then we must promote it. But it ought
to be remembered that much discernment & profound judge-

[illegible] are required to avoid the peril. A decrease or sight rule the legal of the use of blood within the consti-tution [illegible] should be guarded. If the system be much prostrated, there is danger of syncope, rendering other dangerous symptoms supervening; but if the os uteri be found dilated, the pains of contraction [illegible], or the placenta be felt, these may serve a guide for our determination. As a general rule it may be stated that the Haemorrhages in the first six months of pregnancy, may be trusted to the operations of nature after the in-troduction of the tampon. For if the cum will come away, this application, while it arrests the dis-charge, serves to dilate the os uteri & promotes the contraction of the uterus & fundus; & the flooding during these cases is commonly not very profuse, though sufficient to claim serious attention in a partial separation or retention of the [illegible] sac, which will be treated of under the next head of the subject. And this distinction constitutes the chief difference between those Haemorrhages connected

with

[illegible] after or premature delivery.

But in flooding occurring after the sixth month, or dependant on an implantation of the placenta over the os uteri, it will require all the skill & ingenuity of the Accoucheur to effect a safe delivery, which after the palliative means have failed, must be attempted in order to secure the contraction of the womb. The Haemorrhage generally ceases on the rupture of the membranes, & it is far preferable to complete the labour by the operation of turning. Cases of unavoidable flooding are to be distinguished from all others, by the knowledge, that in a healthy condition, no change is induced in the neck of the womb before the end of the seventh month of Gestation, unless excited by some occasional cause; & by an examination, when the placenta will be felt intervening between the child & finger, & which is to be discerned from a coagulum by its consistency.

It having been thus ascertained to be a placental presentation, & that the Uterine contractions have commenced, every preparation must be

made

made for a few minutes & the fœtus soon
is delivered. The arms of the bow may by the usual me
thod be entirely expelled, but we are to wait in un
certain & doubtful calm, for sooner or later a second accef-
sion will take place, & if absent we may be sent for
to witness the expiring scream of our neglect & misman
agement weltering in her own blood. This momentous
fact should put us on our guard, while at the same
time it points out most forcibly the necessity of ma
king in all cases a careful & distinct examination.
In the exercise of our best judgement & discretion, we
should endeavour in delivering women who have this
placental presentation, to hit that happy point where
the os uteri is not rigid & unmalleable, nor dilated so ex
ceed the system would sink under the operation.
The hand previously lubricated, is to be introduced
at one of the sides, wherever it is thought, the membranes
ruptured & the feet brought down. It is a dictum of
some, practice it has to be dangerous manœuvre not
brought it, because, in the best case through systems are
ren-

[illegible] contraction is prevented, [illegible] the [illegible] may be opposed to the contracted cord, & if from any cause the hand is withdrawn or be delayed, be chord in most certain, sudden. These cases should induce us ever to pass by, & never through the placenta; & the same cause that influenced us to turn down the feet of the child, should urge the propriety of terminating the delivery. All this is to be done with better by without rashness, with firmness without violence.

Third, those Haemorrhages connected with the delivery of the placenta.

Upon the whole, the most frequent cause of Uterine flooding is the partial or total separation of the placenta from the uterus after the child is delivered. From what has been said on the connection of this mass to the inner surface of that organ, it must be evident that if it be detached while the womb does not contract, then, more or less blood will be poured out from the torn & opened vessels. The causes pre[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] frequently [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible], or profuse haemorrhage [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] pression of the blood [illegible], [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] condition.

The object in the treatment is clearly to promote the contraction of the uterine fibres, by which the placenta is detached & expelled, the bleeding vessels compressed, & the sanguineous discharge effectually prevented. To gain this important indication, the horizontal position already spoken of in the first & second division should be strictly enjoined, & all things obstructing the admission of fresh air removed. Cloths dipt in cold water should be applied to the pubic region, & ice introduced into the vagina. Frictions made by rubbing & grasping the womb with considerable force through the abdominal parietes, should be instituted, & this simple process will be discovered in practice to be among the very best means to hasten the delivery of the placenta. Venesection on the principle of revulsion

[illegible] of
[illegible] indispensable. For [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
of any of the Uterine [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible],
by accord of lead, united with opium, has [illegible] [illegible] many
instances [illegible] [illegible] to answer the [illegible] of purpose, [illegible]
[illegible], cold water taken freely, by the sympathy existing between
the [illegible], soon diverts the action from the organ in
question, to the stomach.

But, if these measures on a careful application
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a complete [illegible] the expulsion of the
secundines, they must next be attempted to be accomplished
[illegible] manual interference, & if the hand cannot be
introduced the use crotchet of Dr. Lee's may be [illegible]
[illegible]ted. It having been purposely reserved to this most
appropriate case, nothing as yet has been said of the [illegible]
jet or spurred rye. Confessedly if there be a specific
among the articles of the Materia Medica, it is the
secale cornutum in promoting the contraction of the
Uterus. Ample experience of the most respectable
kind has satisfactorily testified, that exhibited in
the

the dose of twenty grains, it acts most powerfully in forcing the womb to a tonic contraction. The American Journals abound with cases of its successful employment in difficult parturition, arising from a want of power in the Uterine system, & I may add one that came under my own observation. It operates most certainly in about fiftan minutes, & though with considerable vigour yet it is quite evanescent in its effects. The only prerequisite or preparatory measure that seems necessary to its administration, is that the os uteri be dilated, or dilatable, since if it were otherwise, it might be ruptured under its influence. And here the Accoucheur can congratulate himself in possessing a remedy in the ergot, by which he can often hasten the lingering labour, expel the retained placenta & check the Haemorrhagies of the womb.

As the general management, is the same after the delivery of the placenta as it is before, except that the tampon may with more propriety be applied, I shall in conclusion merely say a few words on the operation of trans-

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transfusion. It frequently happens in this country, where Midwifery is almost exclusively confined (with a few very honourable exceptions in our large cities) to a poor, ignorant & illiterate class of women, that a regular bred Physician is seldom called to a case of Uterine Haemorrhage, until the patient is prostrated by the successive attacks of syncope, & life floats on its last ebb; it appears that even in this state it might be revived by a foreign but congenial stream of blood. The operation being one of practicability, & having succeeded in the hands of others, I cannot but think it merits more than it has received of the attention of our countrymen. And from the immense importance & interest of the subject to mankind, too much cannot be attempted towards alleviating the miseries which flow in upon whole families by the loss of their Maternal head. The operation of transfusion has in several instances unquestionably restored to their friends those, who without its happy aid would have prematurely, & in the most interesting moment, been snatched from the enjoyments & responsibilities of life.